

- 1 -

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 04/19/2012

Attached hereto is a transcription of a monitored conversation between Brian Murray, Brian Grehoski, and Mervil C. Mason.

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Investigation on 04/02/2012 at Phoenix, AZFile # 194A-PX-87458-TRANS - 3 Date dictated 04/02/2012by SA Mervil C. Mason:mcm *mcm***MCA0001750**

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



File Number:

194A-PX-87458

TRANSCRIPTION

Brian Murray Interview, April 2, 2012

Participants:

Murray        Brian Murray

Grehoski     Special Agent Brian Grehoski, FBI

Mason        Special Agent Merv Mason, FBI

Abbreviations:        [UI]    Unintelligible

Reviewed by Mark Stribling *MS*

Mason: This is Merv Mason. It's April second, two thousand twelve. It's approximately three o'clock P.M. And we're gonna conduct an interview with, ah, Brian Murray. Mm, also here is, ah, Special Agent Brian Grehoski.

Grehoski: Okay. Uh, do you prefer Brian, Mister Murray?

Murray: Brian.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: It's fine.

Grehoski: Um, can you tell us how you first got contacted, uh, to work the -- the ads for Business Leaders of Arizona? How did that come to be?

Murray: Uh, we basically got a cold call. Uh, from Kathleen. Um, and then we set up a meeting and brought her in.

Grehoski: Okay.

Mason: What -- what was your position there? What -- what company did she call you at? Who'd you work for at the time?

Murray: Uh, I was with Lincoln Strategy Group at the time. And I was a non-equity partner.

Mason: When -- about when that was at? What year?

Murray: That she called us?

MM:sec

Mason: Yeah.

Murray: It was like twenty ten.

Mason: Okay.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: I'm not sure of the exact timing. 'Cause it was, um, it was definitely not during the primary. 'Cause during the primary I was running the TV ads for Sheriff Arpaio's reelection, which also happened to be attacking Tom Horne during his primary fight. So...

Grehoski: Mm. Okay. Yeah, and just by way of background, so how long were you with Lincoln Strategy Group?

Murray: Ah, I started in two thousand eight.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: Um, right before Rick got indicted.

Grehoski: Okay. And, when did you leave?

Murray: Uh, end of last year. November, December I think. I -- I gave 'em notice the first week of December.

Grehoski: Okay. And if you could, just give us an overview of -- of what your responsibilities were, how the business works, so, ah, you know, what was it that you did?

MM:sec

Murray: So I kinda did, um, some grass roots lobbying, uh, just advocacy, uh, work. And then, ah, campaigns and campaign management. Um, and the way Lincoln is set up, we're kind of -- we're in different earnings teams. So we had -- I had a team of staff that worked for me. I wouldn't say team really, but there were two others. Um, and then the way I got paid was I had a salary and then I would get a percentage of, uh, you know, what I got. So I -- you know, I would get twenty-two percent of the net revenue for whatever I brought in. And then of that I had to pay, ah, Todd Sommers, uh, seven percent 'cause we're basically, he was my team.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: Um, but that's kind of how -- the funding formula, ah, was set up.

Grehoski: Okay. Um, and so is -- is it primarily TV ads, is it mailers. I mean what is it --

Murray: It's --

Grehoski: -- that you -- that you do?

Murray: It's kinda everything. Like, for a candidate, um, we'll serve as the general consultant. So, you come to us, we run kinda all the strategy, uh, usually hire a -- a pollster. And then depending on what the client wants to do we either do the TV ads or do the mailers. Um, but we can do, you know, I can do soup to nuts, uh, campaigns. As much or as little as you want. Obviously it's in my best interest to get a media contract or to get a mail contract 'cause --

**[Phone ringing]**

Grehoski: Sorry.

Murray: -- that's frankly how you make money. You don't make money by a monthly retainer, especially with candidates who, you know, calling you at

194A-PX-87458  
MM:sec

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all hours of the night and...

Grehoski: Um hm (affirmative).

Murray: You know, never can make them happy, really.

Murray: Just how they are, but...

Grehoski: So, um, prior to the primary, had you done any work for Horne's campaign at all? Or was there any -- ?

Murray: I mean I was -- I was being paid by Sheriff Arpaio's reelection committee.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: And we ran, uh, several TV ads, uh, promoting his reelection. Uh, and one of 'em was promoting his reelection, attacking Rick Romley and Tom.

Grehoski: Okay. So, would you have had any reason to be speaking with anybody from the Horne campaign like Mike Vargas or...?

Murray: Yeah, I mean, I -- I considered Michael a -- a friend and, you know, somebody if he needed my advice I'd give it to him.

Grehoski: Did he ever call you during the primary for advice on Horne's campaign?

Murray: He could have. I honestly don't remember.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: He probably did. And I know Larry Weitzner, who's the general consultant

MM:sec

for Tom, was based out of New Jersey, uh, I worked with on another campaign, so...

Grehoski: What -- what's his name?

Murray: Uh, Larry Weitzner.

Grehoski: How do you spell that?

Murray: Uh good question. W-E-I-T-Z-N-E-R.

Grehoski: Weitzner.

Murray: I think.

Grehoski: Okay. That's phonetically. Great.

Murray: I mean he's just like a big national kinda consultant. Somebody who guys like us strive to be some day.

Mason: So he was a principal consultant for Horne's campaign?

Murray: Yeah, he -- I mean he probably runs, you know, thirty or forty congressional campaigns a year. Does tons of work and -- one of the -- he's kind of like a nat-- definitely a national level consultant. Probably one of ten that are big time.

Grehoski: Okay. It's one of those things we'll now see that name in the news all over the place for some unknown reason, you know?

Mason: **[Laughter]**

MM:sec

Grehoski: Um...

Murray: Not from me.

Grehoski: So Larry was the -- the -- one of the principal consultants on Horne's campaign. Did -- so -- nop-- I guess I'm just trying to figure -- there's no reason that you would have been talking about Horne's campaign prior?

Murray: I mean sometimes he would call and, you know, what's going on on the ground. Uh, he's got an office here in Tucson. He used to work for, uh, Jim Colby and Ramsey. That it how I know him.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: Um, and, you know, we're friendly. And sometimes he send me business. Last session, er, in twenty ten he sent me work, uh, for a -- using the -- work for Pawtakie.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: And so it's a national, uh, like ballot -- it wasn't really a ballot access campaign, it was a petition thing on Obama care.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: Um, so he slid that to us.

Grehoski: Okay. So no formal arrangement, though, with Horne? It was just more off the cuff, hey, what -- what would you think about this, what would you think about that?

Murray: Yeah, it just more like what do you hear and what are you seeing.



MM:sec

Grehoski: Yeah. Okay. Okay.

Murray: Um, you know, it's -- I consider Larry a friend. Been really helpful and sm-- really smart guy on -- on campaign strategies. Somebody who, you know, not afraid to pick up the phone and call and say hey, what do you think about this, what do you think about that?

Grehoski: Okay. So then for, ah, after the primary, was there any, ah, relationship you engaged in with regards to the Horne campaign?

Murray: Not, ah, like --

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: -- professional, like contract wise? No.

Grehoski: Yep. Okay. Uh, but again, you had regular contact with Vargas? Just off the cuff kind of stuff?

Murray: Yeah. I mean, I wouldn't say it's like a weekly conference call or anything like that. But you know, if he called and said hey, you know, what should I do, what do you think? You know...

Grehoski: Um hm (affirmative).

Murray: For him and lots of other folks around town to think there's -- it's a real small kinda community where if you feel like you're on the same side of things you help each other out.

Grehoski: Mm 'kay. And do you have any spe-- specific recollection of times where he called you and asked for advi-- advice on Horne's campaign?

Murray: Not specific stuff, no.

MM:sec

Grehoski: Not specific? Okay.

Murray: I mean it was a couple years ago now.

Grehoski: Okay. Uh...

Murray: I mean, it wasn't like the only thing we were doing, you know.

Grehoski: Sure. And I know just before the general you guys were really, really busy, uh, during an election year. Um, okay, so then Kathleen Winn, let's shift back over to that. Kathleen called you out of the blue. It was a cold call?

Murray: Um hm (affirmative).

Grehoski: Do you remember what she -- she said, what she was looking for, what the pitch was?

Murray: Said she had a bunch of money and, you know, wanted to help Horne win. And I said you know, that's great. Ah, and I'll take that call. Um...

Grehoski: Okay. Anything stand out, anything specific about that call?

Murray: No.

Grehoski: Just what, so she set up a meeting, come in? And...

Murray: Well, I mean, you kinda take it with a grain of salt, like you get those calls a lot.

Grehoski: Um hm (affirmative).

MM:sec

Murray: Like oh, you know, I'm so smart and I know all this stuff, you say, oh, you know, let's -- let's see the real deal.

Grehoski: Um hm (affirmative).

Murray: Um, so she -- we had her come in for a meeting just kinda size her up a little bit and see if she was full of it or, you know. 'Cause I'd never heard of her and she was pretty convinced that she was important, so...

Mason: Was she by herself?

Murray: Yes.

Mason: So then you decide after that meeting that you take the -- take the job or...?

Murray: Yeah, I mean, it's not like we turn down work. Um, you know, for us we make fifteen percent on a TV buy. Um, which is, you know, not bad. But, ah, in and of that -- you know, obviously I had -- stand to make twenty percent of that. Um, so of course I knew it was going to be a tough campaign. Uh, Rotellini, uh, you know, was running pretty aggressively, had a lot of union support. Um, so I thought sure. You know, plus on top of that, since he was likely to be the Attorney General and I had worked on the Arpaio stuff, I didn't want, you know, I didn't want him to get irritated with me because of, uh, working on that. And I don't know if he knows that I did those ads or didn't. But, I -- I figured eventually it would come out at some point and I take this would be good for me.

Mason: Just out of curiosity, is there a conflict there in your work, or are you just kinda like, hey, this is what we do, we'll work both sides of things, 'cause you're just facilitating strategy?

Murray: It kind of depends. Like I won't work for, um, most democrats, um, just 'cause it would be bad for business. Um, there's a couple on city council level that I've worked for just, you know, 'cause they're friends or, you know, I think they're a good person. But generally, you know, we work on republican issues only.

Mason: Okay.

Murray: Um, so, you know, in the primary a lot of times it's just kinda who you're working with. I mean, Sheriff Arpaio obviously is a big client for anybody to have. Um, I knew that, ah, I'd like to be running his campaign again in twenty twelve, or, not running his campaign, but at least doing his media.

Mason: Sure.

Murray: Um, 'cause it's a sizeable war chest.

Mason: So did, um, did she make mention at all that, um, about she'd heard anything about the campaign or that he's getting behind in the numbers or he was struggling or anything like that?

Murray: I don't -- I don't remember that, but I mean, I think rumors were pretty widely out there that everybody thought it was a pretty close campaign.

Mason: Okay. Go ahead Brian.

Murray: I never saw any polling as far as I recall.

Mason: Okay.

Grehoski: Do you, ah, recall the day that she came in? What was the meet-- what day was the meeting?

Murray: I have no idea.

Grehoski: Would you have your calendar? Would it be in there?

MM:sec

Murray: I -- 'cause it's, ah, I switched companies, I don't have any of that stuff anymore. But...

Grehoski: Oh, okay. Okay. Um...

Mason: Do you have any of the files or the contra... they said that you might have brought some of that with you.

Murray: Uhh, I mean, I have like -- let me -- I looked at it this morning. The only thing I had on there was copy for spots. Um, I can show you my file. So this is what I have as far as I have, so, most of it was traffic or ads, um, but there was -- and I don't think we ever even signed a contract with them. It was just more of get the money into us 'cause they wanted to go on TV, you know, I recommended to her we go on TV. Um, and I had our buyer say, you know, take a look at what -- what was Rotellini running, uh, and trying to make some strategic decisions based on that. But, you know, if it's not on TV it doesn't really exist in politics anyways.

**(Looking at computer calendar)**

Grehoski: Mmm. Um hm (affirmative).

Murray: So the goal was to get up on TV as quickly as possible.

Mason: So the earliest date in here is ten twenty?

Murray: Ahhh.

Mason: Ten twenty-one.

Murray: Yeah, looks like it.

Mason: There are several twenty-twos. Twenty-seven. Twenty-nine.

MM:sec

Murray: It probably happened before that. I mean I -- I have no idea though.

Grehoski: I can tell you from her phone records it looks like the first time she called you was Octo-- or October twenty-second.

Murray: Twenty-second?

Grehoski: Yeah.

Murray: Yeah.

Grehoski: Does that sound about right?

Murray: Probably.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: I mean, honestly, it's kind of a whirlwind.

Grehoski: Yeah. I -- and again, I -- we know it's a -- it's a real busy time. Do you recall did you meet with her the next day, was it a couple days later? Maybe --

Murray: I don't know if it was the next day, but it was really soon.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: Because it, you know, time is of the essence on those kind of things.

Grehoski: Yep. And did she indicate that she already had the money in pocket, or the money was coming?

MM:sec

Murray: I think she said she had like fifty grand. Um, I don't know the exact dollar amount or if she said she had it in the bank already. Um, my -- my concern was always on I don't know this woman, can I trust her? Um, it's Todd who is part of our team and I think was in those meetings, had worked for Congressman Hayworth and we had worked -- I had also worked for Congressman Hayworth. We were doing the, ah, um, the a-- a -- the Apache, ah, funding issue.

Grehoski: Um hm (affirmative).

Murray: And so Todd's like actually, you know, I know her husband 'cause he's the plant manager at the Boeing facility where they make the Apaches. Um, it's a, you know, her husband's the real deal so she probably is, too.

Grehoski: Okay.

Mason: **[Clears throat]** Can you re-- go ahead.

Grehoski: What's Todd's last name again?

Murray: Uh, Sommers.

Grehoski: Sommers?

Murray: Um hm (affirmative).

Grehoski: Do you have contact information for him?

Murray: Sure. Uh, let me look.

Grehoski: Were you Kathleen's primary point of contact, or did you and Todd sort of share that?

MM:sec

Murray: Uh, oops, I'm calling him. Um, yeah, no, I was probably her primary contact.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: Although at some point I was real sick of dealing with her. Let's see. I have a new phone here. Ah... His cell is four eight oh, three five three, eight two zero eight.

Grehoski: Eight two zero eight?

**[Phone ringing]**

Murray: Yep. That's him calling me back.

Mason: So, um, you said that -- do you have a normal thing you do to vet people at all? Or do you call around or check on 'em? Or do you just kinda take your chances?

Murray: No. I mean most people you kinda know.

Mason: Right. Get a feeling...

Murray: Um, so that's why, you know, not knowing her, um, but at the same token, you know, campaigns are so weird. You never know what's gonna happen or, you know, who comes to see ya.

Mason: We've heard a lot of crazy -- from other people a lot of p-- crazy people comes out of the wood works on these kinda things.

Murray: Yeah. Oh, that's putting it lightly.

Mason: One thing I'm wondering is that, you know, having a relationship with



MM:sec

Vargas prior, um, did you call him at all, just say hey, do you know who this woman is? She's coming in here, she's kinda kooky and...?

Murray: I -- I might of.

Mason: Yeah.

Murray: I honestly don't remember if I did or I didn't.

Mason: Okay.

Grehoski: Do you recall if she dropped his name, said, hey I heard about -- I heard you -- good things from...

Murray: She -- I don't remember that. I do remember her saying that she was going to meet with several other people. Or she had gotten other names. Um, whether that was true or not, um, My goal was to try to, you know, get her in the door.

Grehoski: Okay.

Mason: She didn't mention where she got your name from or anything, or...?

Murray: No, not - not that -- I don't remember.

Mason: Okay.

Grehoski: Okay. So you're recollection is she initially came with some dollar amount around maybe fifty grand?

Murray: Around fiftyish, yeah.

Grehoski: Okay. But she didn't come in the door saying I've got a half a million?  
Or...

Murray: No, because, I mean, the way that the national money came in was 'cause I got it.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: Um, and I knew that it was gon -- especially with the price per point, you know, when you're buying TV ads, I don't know how familiar you are. But usually you need a thousand points to drive a message. And candidate rates were like, you know, three fifty, three sixty. But IE committee is like five, six hundred. And because McCain had driven the price up by dropping, you know, twenty-five million, the prices were way high anyways. And then you had a real contentious race out in Tucson. So it was limited inventories. So one of the first things I did was to call, uh, the RNC and say, hey, you know, we've got a problem, um, with Horne. It's gonna be a tough race. Is there any money that you guys can put in? Um, and the RNC said no, and they usually don't fund IE committees directly. Uh, but said to call the AG's committee. So I called the AG Association. They said, che, you know, we got some other races we're looking at. Call the RSLC. Um, and so I finally touched base with them and said hey, you know, this is real. Um, and originally they were gonna come in with more. Uh, but there was some other race, I forget what state it was, that took money away from it. But that was -- the big money that came in, and my greatest concern was they make a contribution into the IE committee and then she keeps it. Ah, which, you know, was -- and then like, what happened was once I knew the money had gone into her account, she wouldn't wire the money, for like a couple of days. And I kept calling her and saying what's going on? I can't get to the bank. Let's -- you know, these excuses. You've got the national party guys going what is going on, you know, like you told us this lady was gonna do it. You know, so it was...

Mason: So it went -- it went from four fifty to three fifty?

MM:sec

Murray: Well, I think originally the RSLC committed are doing five fifty.

Mason: Um hm (affirmative).

Murray: And they backed it down and they backed it down again.

Mason: Okay. And so then she finally came through, obviously, or...?

Murray: Yeah. A couple days later finally the -- the -- she wired the money into the account and, you know, everything was fine.

Grehoski: Who did you deal with at the, ah, RSLC?

Murray: Uhh, I don't remember his name. I talked to Lee Padilla who was -- at the time was the regional political director at the RNC who gave me the info on who to talk to at the RSLC.

Grehoski: Does the name Ben Cannatti sound familiar?

Murray: Yeah, that's it then.

Grehoski: And how -- what was your mode of contact with Ben? Was it all phone calls? Was it...?

Murray: Phone calls or emails. Never had an in person meeting.

Grehoski: Okay. Is there any chance you still have those emails or are those back over at RSLC?

Murray: They --

Grehoski: I mean the --

Murray: They was -- those'd be at Lincoln.

Grehoski: Lincoln? Okay. Yeah, in the -- the documents we got, so that there was an initial request for four fifty, then there was emails that he sent over to the Republican State Leadership Committee saying hold off on that, it might come down a little bit. And then it went to three fifty.

Murray: Yeah.

Grehoski: And...

Murray: That sounds right.

Grehoski: So we're not -- maybe you can answer, why was it reduced?

Murray: I think they just had other priorities they were putting money into.

Mason: Another campaign?

Murray: Yeah.

Mason: Yeah.

Grehoski: Now is -- is that coming from Ben? The priorities?

Murray: Yeah.

Grehoski: 'Cause it -- it sounded like, or the way it looked in the emails and the documents that we already got, that something was happening where it wasn't going to be as expensive as they thought. That's the impression that I got, um, from the information. But if it's -- if it was Ben making a decision about he knew there was so much resources available and he was

MM:sec

the one deciding where the money, you know, would be best spent. That -- that could be as well. Do -- do you have any sense at what that was about?

Murray: Ye-- yeah, I'm a -- what I remember is that they had some other race that was taking precedent within their leadership structure.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: Um, they obviously wanted to win this race, but, um, at the last minute lowered the dollar amount. I think we tried to go back to them for more money, uh --

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: -- later. And I don't remember if we got any or if it was a smaller amount.

Grehoski: Okay. Did, ah, you ever put Kathleen in touch with Ben --

Murray: No.

Grehoski: -- or anybody? So it was all through you?

Murray: Yeah.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: I would not burn national party guys dealing with her.

Grehoski: Okay.

MM:sec

Mason: Has she ever mentioned any... any contact she had with the campaign or anything like that, that you can remember?

Murray: Well, I mean this set off kind of this weird dichotomy, you know, weird relationship she said things that made me concerned. And so I repeatedly told her. You cannot have any conversations. You have to be totally siloed from them. There can be no exception. And I -- and it was proceeding down this path of -- that made me personally uncomfortable. And so I finally sent her an email. S-- and I spelled it out in writing. 'Cause I wanted it to be -- in case this ever happened, there to be a record. And said this is unacceptable behavior. And I copied our attorney on it. Um, that's the level of discomfort that I was feeling from --

Mason: Can we -- can you, ah, elaborate a little bit on the kinds of things she was saying and -- and about when that started?

Murray: Ye-- I mean, I can't tell you exactly what it was --

Mason: No, no, but it --

Murray: -- that she said or didn't say, but there, you know, there was just things that she was doing. Uh, whether it was attending Horne events or -- or whatever, but there was one instance where she sent me an email. Like -- we did -- we started the TV ads. And then literally like three or four days later she wants to change the copy. And I'm like, you know, there's no point in changing the ad. It hasn't had any chance to penetrate. We need to stay, you know, on with this ad. And she's like, oh, you know, what are you talking about. I said this is pretty standard stuff. You know, you're not going to change your ad out right away to a completely different ad. You know, we basically went with an ad that was pretty similar to Tom's ad, just because I knew he didn't have enough points behind it. So I took basically the same messaging and plussed it up. Uh, but she wanted to change the ad out right away.

Mason: Did she say why?

MM:sec

Murray: Well, I -- I'll get to that.

Mason: Sure.

Murray: And so, kind of went through this process where I said, you know, I'm not comfortable with this because even though you're the client, you're not really my client. I mean, I don't know you from Adam.

Mason: Sure.

Murray: But I -- the national party guys I'm not gonna do something stupid for and get blamed if Tom loses. Uh, so we went on this back and forth on why we shouldn't change the ad. She had all these edits and just, you know, it was really difficult to work with somebody who'd never made ad before. But at one point she sent me an ad, or sent me an email about a strategy to change the -- the copy of the ad. And so I scrolled through like this long thing. And on it was one of Horne's personal emails. And it -- it wasn't -- I didn't think it was, you know, she was part of a conversation, but she was forwarded an email from Tom, who -- you know, then she forwards me and like, well, what about these issues? And that was the catalyst for me writing the email saying you cannot have conversation, it's a violation of the law, it's spelled out real clearly and -- and copied the attorney on it.

Mason: And so what was her reaction to that?

Murray: You know, I think it went in some kind of back and forth where, you know, she was, you know, saying she wasn't doing anything. I mean she always denied, I'm not, I'm not part of the campaign, I'm not working on the campaign. She never said, well, you know, I talked to Tom, you know...

Mason: Right.

Murray: Nothing, anything like that. Always deny, deny, deny. But, you know, it wasn't adding up in my mind. And having just gone through the Renzi stuff years before, maybe I was, in the abundance of caution, to, you know --

Mason: It was smart.

Murray: -- not being a problem, so.

Mason: Yeah. Um, anything else about that we're missing or anything surrounding that we're missing that -- of note?

Murray: No, I mean, that -- I mean that was kind of the -- the tipping point I guess. Um, and that probably was what, you know, soured the relationship for her to accuse me of, you know, not refunding the money. I'm guessing.

Mason: Right. Now, um, do we -- do you have those emails somewhere?

Murray: I don't have them. Uh, Steve Sparks, I'm pretty sure, at Sanderson Parks was the, um...

Mason: Attorney?

Murray: The attorney.

Mason: Okay. Now would it from your -- what email account were those from?

Murray: Um, B Murray at Lincoln dash Strategy dot com.

Mason: B Murray? B dot Murray or B Murray?

Murray: Just B Murray.

Mason: B Murray dot...

Murray: Ah, B Murray at Lincoln dash Strategy dot com.



Mason: Okay.

Grehoski: And Steve Sparks, wa-- he -- was he the in house counsel or was he the...?

Murray: Steve was just, ah, we used to work with Andrew Pacheco, um, and then, um, Steve was kind of handling other things for the old firm that I was with. Uh, and so when I talked to Nathan he said, well, you know, copy Sparky on it just to cover your ass. And so that's what I did.

Grehoski: Do you have contact information for him?

Murray: I'm sure I do. It's probably easier if I just get it on here. Uh, six oh two, five three two, five seven six nine.

Grehoski: Okay. How did she, ah, always get in touch? Would she always call you on your cell phone? Did she call you at the work number? That one's three oh three, seven one seven five, or seven one seven two?

Murray: Uh, yeah. We had a bunch of different extensions.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: Or my cell, I don't know how she...

Grehoski: Okay. 'Cause it looks like, um, from her records it's like -- said there was probably the initial call on the twenty-second. And then on the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth there were one, two, three, four, five, six, seven different calls. All--

Murray: It's probably 'cause she hadn't wired the money or something like that.

Grehoski: Okay. And they're all about seven, eight minutes, ten minutes, that kinda

194A-PX-87458  
MM:sec

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stuff.

Murray: Yeah.

Grehoski: Okay. Um, can you recall anything else about some of the things she was talking about? Like attending campaign events, is-- is that you --

Murray: I mean that's just --

Grehoski: -- opining [UI].

[CROSSTALK]

Murray: I'm not a -- I don't mean to put that on her 'cause I don't remember exactly what it was or wasn't.

Grehoski: Uh huh (affirmative).

Murray: But there was just a couple of different times like, well just -- she was saying things that in my mind were concerning.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: And to the extent that, I didn't want to see, you know, her get in trouble for being stupid. Because she wasn't part of the political process and maybe she didn't know.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: You know, I -- I don't know. But I didn't want to get her in trouble. On the same token I certainly didn't want to get myself in trouble. I --

MM:sec

Grehoski: Sure.

Mason: Did you ever hear her say anything about like putting out signs or picking up signs or anything like that?

Grehoski: No.

Mason: No?

Grehoski: Trip to Yuma, Wickenburg? Did she ever mention those?

Murray: No.

Grehoski: Okay. But she was adamant with you that she is not part of the campaign?

Murray: Ah, very adamant on multiple occasions.

Mason: So, you sent her that bright line email saying no more. And wh-- the ads are out at that point. And so then you didn't have much contact. And then you get into this contentious thing about the money after that?

Murray: Yeah. I mean, we tried to get more money. Um, tried to raise more money just because, ah, I think the labor unions came in with an ad, uh, that was really tough on Tom. Um, and there was just limited inventory.

Grehoski: Um hm (affirmative).

Murray: So like, I think Tucson was completely sold out. Like you couldn't even buy an ad if you wanted to. Um, and so we ended up -- that was -- she was upset 'cause sh-- I guess she worked for Channel Four down there at some point. Um, and she's saying our ads aren't running down there. I said well, you know, we don't have -- there's no inventory to buy. So we shifted some of the money back in the Tucson market. Um, or back into the Phoenix market. But, uh, I mean, basically once the ad's up, the ad's up.

MM:sec

There's not much to do. Um, I think at the end we got last minute money, but we couldn't really plus up the buy so I think we did an autodial. Um, but I don't remember if we actually did or didn't. But I -- I think we did by using Arpaio.

Grehoski: Okay.

Mason: Did, um, did she ever make mention with her working with any other kind of media outlets or having any other contact --?

Murray: Yeah, 'cause she worked at Channel Four and she was like this big know it all about how T-- I know how TV works and, um, you know. But on air guys don't always know how the business side of it works.

Mason: Sure, right.

Grehoski: If she had admitted that she was part of the campaign, would that have changed anything that you did? I mean --

Murray: Yeah, 'cause I mean --

Grehoski: Would you have ceased your relationship with her because you didn't want to be involved, ah, 'cause you know the violation?

Murray: I didn't want to get in trouble, yeah.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: I mean, I think there -- there are other things I -- I could have done if she was part of the campaign. You know, that would have totally been legal and very easy to do. Um, but...

Mason: So you are saying there are exceptions to that? In other words, if you're independent?

Murray: Well, I mean, if -- if an independent ex-- committee wants to be creative, there's nothing stopping that. And it's not like somebody who's an agent of a campaign has to do it. I mean if you -- if you actually look how most committees work, right, so like, say I'm running for president. Um, and you go and you talk to the RNC. And you say here's all the stuff and my campaign's gonna work on. Here's -- here's the opposition research book we've put together. Here's all our greatest hits on our opponents. Here's where we think we're weak. You can share all that information before a committee --

Mason: Is formed?

Murray: -- is created. So you could do all that kind of information sharing with any candidate committee to different, you know, whether it's an expenditure committee or, well, you couldn't do it with the -- an independent expenditure committee, but you could do it with a party committee leading up to that. And then this is what the -- exactly how the RNC does it. So they have all these meetings with all their candidates for congress and for senate, for president. And then at some point in time they say okay, these guys are spinning off, they're -- they are our IE unit and they will do nothing but IE's and they'll no longer have contact with the campaign. But that doesn't mean the same guys weren't in the room, you know, doing all these meetings, understanding what they're polling, while it's so -- you know, I mean, it's --

Mason: But -- but when you say -- you understand the law, absolutely no contact, I mean, can I -- if -- if you and I are friends and you're running an IE, can I call you up and talk to you about my dog or complain about my wife or...?

Murray: Yeah, I think you can do that. I mean, that would be my read of it.

Mason: Yeah.

Murray: But you'd have to have a silo -- I mean there are some companies where in the company there's -- one team is working on the IE and one team is working on the, ah, campaign. And as long as they're siloed and -- and

MM:sec

they're not discussing the campaign, there's nothing illegal about that. But I don't think, you know, you want to call me about your dog or your wife or whatever, I don't think that's -- my read, I guess --

Mason: Um hm (affirmative).

Murray: -- is not that that's illegal.

Mason: Right.

Grehoski: But if she were going to campaign events and putting up signs and having conversations with the committee, or with the campaign, that would have raised flags with you and you would have --

Murray: Yeah.

Grehoski: -- ceased?

Murray: Oh, I mean, th-- I think by every definition she'd be an agent of the campaign.

Grehoski: Okay. Um, okay. What next?

Mason: Um, I guess, you want to talk about this post -- this in-- discussion with Home, or do you want to get into that at all or is that kind of moot now?

Grehoski: No, I was just gonna say, um, we pulled the, you know, the phone records and I know these are my handwritten notes, but it was a very lengthy PDF file. And I just jotted down all the dates that it looks like, um, Vargas calls you. And he -- looks like he calls you fairly frequently, every couple of weeks, every few weeks. And is that probably -- ah, well, is that because of your friendship or your past relationship with Lincoln Strategy Group?

Murray: I -- I made over this time period now or during that time...

Grehoski: Well, this is back in two thousand ten.

Murray: Well, I mean, ah, leading up to the primary, uh, I mean they were going through a tough fight. Um, and so he, you know, had asked my advice about stuff. But you know, what the specifics were, I couldn't honestly say.

Grehoski: Okay. Did he have any input as to what the ads should be that, uh, Kathleen was buying?

Murray: No. I -- I wrote that up myself.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: Uh, and I said here's what we ought to do. And I, you know, explained to her the reason why was basically, you know, it's -- it's pretty standard even if you're a candidate. Uh, a lot of times you'll go on their websites and say why do they have this page with really glossy nice pictures and they have just a few bullets. Well, most campaigns that are smart enough set up a page like that so that if an IE committee is formed, first thing you do is you go to their page and say, oh, well, here -- here -- here's the roadmap of what they want you to do if you're an IE.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: I mean that's pretty standard in politics.

Mason: We just want to make sure for your sake that what -- what is here isn't something that's gonna cause you heartburn later. Because we're not accusing you of anything. But kinda need to ferret this out. There's a significant number of phone calls right around the time that all this was happening. And from what you've told us, Kathleen was not connecting herself at all with the campaign.

Murray: Yeah.

Mason: But, you know, these discussions you're having with -- with her -- with him, I -- well, no, I'm sorry, with --

Grehoski: Vargas.

Mason: -- with Vargas. You know, we want to make sure that they're not related to what you're doing with Kathleen.

Murray: Well, I mean, I -- I never discuss with Michael the strategy that I would employ on that -- on -- for the IE. Um, I mean I'm a hundred percent confident that that conversation didn't happen. Uh, did I talk to him about maybe who is this lady? Maybe. Um, but, n-- the -- I -- I understand what the silo is.

Mason: Right.

Murray: Uh, and I wouldn't do that to myself.

Mason: Okay.

Murray: Um, so...

Mason: But -- but it -- it's pretty important like if -- I mean, that you -- you take some time to think about that. About, I mean not right this second, I -- but I mean, you might want to think about that some more. Um, for your own sake. You know, 'cause all this -- as you know, all this comes out in the end.

Murray: Right.



MM:sec

Mason: And, um, we think you're being candid with us, but we don't want you to get in a situation where -- 'cause there's things that we know about who's calling who and all this that we can't really share with you, and, but what we can talk to you about is the fact that you were talking to her. Which makes sense. And you were talking to Michael. Which makes sense under the idea of him being a good friend of yours. But we want to make sure that none of that was -- was overlapping.

Murray: Yeah, I mean, I can't speak to what the conversations were about 'cause I honestly don't remember.

Mason: Sure.

Murray: But I -- what I can tell you is that I understand what the law is and had no intention of breaking the law or getting anywhere close to it. Um, just, you know, having gone through the Renzi stuff, understanding, you know, how things could be misinterpreted by you guys.

Mason: Right.

Murray: Um, and you know, I remember when I met with the FBI previously for Rick and they -- they asked these questions. And I say, you -- you guys just don't understand the process. Um, and that's why they would have like these crazy ideas and so I thought just, you know --

Grehoski: Um hm (affirmative).

Murray: That doesn't -- that's not how the -- how the actual real world works, even though maybe it looks like it on paper. Um, but I certainly understand that, you know, if I did something like that it'd be awfully stupid to, you know, shoot myself in the foot and I wouldn't do anything like that.

Mason: Does Michael have a pretty good understanding of the law?

Murray: I would think so.

Mason: Yeah. Okay.

Grehoski: Yeah, we just want to make sure he's not gonna tell a different story. And -- and I'm not -- again, we're not saying that you're lying.

Murray: No.

Grehoski: But wanna make sure that he's gonna have the same story. 'Cause if he's t-- if he's lying to us then he's gonna be in trouble. You know, it's one of those --

Murray: Right.

Grehoski: -- things. Okay. Um, so the ad-- just to sum up, you are the one that did the research on the ads. You figured out what strategy you were gonna go with. You put the ads together.

Murray: I wrote -- I wrote the spots. I mean the -- it wasn't tough.

Grehoski: Uh huh (affirmative).

Murray: 'Cause I could just see, you know, I remember talking to the media buyer, how many points does he have? Wasn't enough. And so I basically took his ad and I don't have a copy of it, but basically wrote an ad that was nearly identical in content. Uh, just delivery was different.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: Um, and used that ad. And -- and the only thought that I had ch-- I had, was he went up with a rebuttal ad and I thought, you know, maybe we should swap it out, um, to also be running a rebuttal ad once the unions came in with their attack ad. And I said, you know, it just doesn't make sense we still haven't had enough points really, push this thing through.

Grehoski: Okay. Will we be able to get copies of the -- the file that you do have or would you prefer --

Murray: Yeah, I can --

Grehoski: -- a subpoena, or...?

Murray: I-- I'm happy to just email it to you if you want.

Grehoski: Okay. Yeah I'll give you my card before we go. Um...

Mason: So, um, the election's over. Your relationship terminates and, you know, there's the argument over the money. Um, can we fast forward Brian to --

Grehoski: Sure. Throw it at him.

Mason: -- this -- this discussion, um, what was your first inkling about any of this stuff? Did you hear about it just in circles or...?

Murray: About the investigation?

Mason: Yeah, or just -- what -- what was your next contact? 'Cause it ultimately ended up getting --

Murray: I mean, the next time I heard about it was when the Attorney General called me.

Mason: Okay.

Murray: I didn't really know anything was going on until he called me.

MM:sec

Mason: Okay. When, ah, do you have any idea when that was? Does your calendar now reflect that at all?

Murray: Umm, probably not. I mean I wonder if -- well, he called me from a blocked line. Um, I was -- pretty recent, I'd say the last month.

Mason: mm 'kay. Uh, so it was definitely after Christmas?

Murray: Oh, definitely after Christmas.

Grehoski: Umm.

Murray: February, March time line I'd say.

Grehoski: Okay.

Mason: And, uh, he just says what?

Murray: Calls me. I answer. Um, you know, hey Brian, it's the Attorney General. Uh, do you have time to meet? Um, I thought, you know, frankly he wanted to talk about running for governor or smart political things he could be doing. And I said sure, when do you want to do it? And he said right now. Uh, and so we went to Tom's Tavern downtown. And we met there. And had the conversation there.

Mason: Okay. What -- what -- how'd that start? What did he say?

Murray: He started in, ah, was asking me about, um, you know, how my relationship ended with Kathleen and why, you know, why did it go bad from my perspective. **[Coughing]** Excuse me. Um, and so I kind of walked him through the process that we just discussed --

Mason: Um hm (affirmative).

MM:sec

Murray: -- about, you know, how -- basically this one was a -- essentially accusing me of stealing. Uh, and, ah, you know, kinda irritated me and wasn't sure.

Mason: Okay. And, um, you said you felt like you were being interrogated, so did it...?

Murray: Well, both my parents are attorneys and so, like, you know, like as a kid I guess I was always, um, always felt like I was being interrogated. But it was just kind of like a prosecutor would ask questions, you know, well, what about this, then this, then this, then this? You know, just kinda boom, boom, boom, boom. It wasn't like hey, Tom, good to see ya... You know, what's going on here?

Mason: Right.

Murray: Although that's how it ended. Um, that's certainly not how it started.

Mason: So what -- what was the rest of the discussion? Did it turn to the investigation or did it turn to...?

Murray: Well, he said that, ah, Kathleen, who obviously knew, ah, was being looked at, uh, for -- for possibly for doing coordination. And did I have recollection on did she ever do it? Um, did I know about anything where I also relayed to him the email. 'Cause I -- I told him how I felt, I was uncomfortable and how there was an email that had his personal email address on this -- this chain. Uh, and how I'd copied, uh, our -- our attorneys at Lincoln, 'cause I felt uncomfortable.

Mason: Okay. And what'd he say to that?

Murray: Uh, not much. I mean he didn't really -- wasn't -- it was almost like he was just kinda taking it in. Uh, he wasn't taking notes or anything, but...

Mason: Um, did he, ah, he didn't comment, though, about hey, well, you know, I didn't do that or did he make any --?

MM:sec

Murray: No, I mean it was just mostly just asking -- peppering me with questions.

Mason: Mm 'kay. Did, um, did he, um, wh-- what else, I mean, what else did he say? What th--

Murray: He just kept asking me to try and, you know, dig deeper, to think more about this or that, you know, when this happened. You know, wh-- you know, wh-- what was your thought process on, you know, was the email from him to her? And I said, you know, no it wasn't. Were there other things that she did that you thought were, you know, expressly illegal? No, because it's not like I had any, you know -- there wasn't an email from Tom to her saying hey do this.

Mason: Alright.

Murray: There was nothing anything like that. And he just kept asking me, you know, well, trying to figure out -- it was almost like he was trying to get me to remember, you know, any incident that -- that I thought was questionable and I just couldn't come up with anything other than the one that really stood out, which is the one I s-- you know.

Mason: So sounds somewhat of the same line of questioning as we're having here.

Murray: Yeah. Frankly, yes.

Mason: Um, and then did it -- did, um, he -- did he ever ask you to say anything or hey, make sure, I mean, anything like that?

Murray: Yeah. No, he only said, he said, you know, you're likely to get contacted by the FBI and you should be prepared for that. Um, and I -- and I said, you know, if I do, I'll -- I'll give you a heads up and let you know.

Mason: Okay.

Grehoski: Did you call him after we called you to give him a heads up?

Murray: Um, well, ironically, when you went to Lincoln, um, then I let, uh, Doug Nick in his office know that although I hadn't been contacted, they had come to my old and say let me know. Um and then I -- I -- I had emailed Doug this morning when the reporter started calling me and said hey, you know, something's brewing because I'm getting calls from reporters. And then, um, we talked on the phone briefly. And I said that you had called. Or that you had called.

Mason: Okay.

Grehoski: And that was with Doug Nick?

Murray: Yeah.

Grehoski: Okay.

Mason: Anything else in that discussion that -- that I'm missing?

Murray: With the Horne?

Mason: Yeah.

Murray: With... Horne? Not really, no.

Mason: Okay. And you guys just kinda parted ways, or what?

Murray: Yeah. I mean, we just -- it was maybe twenty minutes, you know. I had a diet Coke and I think he had an orange juice and was taking a bunch of -- he was taking a Z pack. And I remember that 'cause he was sick. Um, and some small talk about, you know, crap that he was working on, but nothing

MM:sec

substantive.

Mason: Okay.

Grehoski: Okay. Um, so really any documents or any items that are -- that are left over are going to be back at Lincoln Strategy Group and their email servers if they still exist?

Murray: Yeah, I mean, if there's email stuff they would have all of that. Uh, I showed you what I have.

Grehoski: Yeah.

Murray: I mean, it wasn't like lots of paper. Um, SRCP media was the vendor that we used to do the actual placement.

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: And so they were the ones who built out the file to show that the ads had actually run. But...

Mason: You didn't copy yourself as a CYA, like copy your personal email or something with that email from her?

Murray: Um, I might have I can look if you want. I figured the lawyers would never delete anything, so...

Mason: It's possible, but...

[Pause]

Murray: So it isn't here. Let's see. Twenty ten.



MM:sec

Mason: Um hm (affirmative).

Murray: Eleven. Let's see. Ah, ten twenty Home IE TV. Oh, it's just an email from the, ah, editor, just on the spot. That's the only one.

Grehoski: Okay.

Mason: Okay.

Murray: That you can have if you want. Does say -- it has a good time stamp actually. It's October twentieth. And it's the copy of the spot that I sent to him and then I think I probably couldn't open it on my computer so I had to forward it --

Grehoski: Okay.

Murray: -- to my personal.

Grehoski: Yeah, if you can print that out, it'd be great.

Murray: Sure. Uh, print.

Mason: We'll just ask you to, if you don't mind, preserving that.

Murray: Sure.

Mason: Not deleting it. That it?

Grehoski: I think that's it.

Mason: And, um, anything -- the kind of catch all. Is there anything that we should have asked that you're sitting on or that you know about that's important to all this or...?

Murray: No. I mean, that's -- you know, there wasn't much to this program. You know it was basically running a TV ad.

Mason: Right.

Grehoski: And that went all around the state?

Murray: It was a state wide buy. We didn't buy Yuma. Just Tucson and Phoenix.

Grehoski: Okay. Just Tucson and Phoenix?

Murray: Yeah.

Grehoski: So nowhere up, in say, Yavapai or, I mean...?

Murray: Well it's covered by the Phoenix DMA.

Grehoski: Oh, okay.

Murray: So, Arizona has three TV markets, Phoenix, Tucson and Yuma.

Grehoski: Oh, okay.

Murray: So if you buy -- if you buy it that way, that's how you get coverage.

Mason: Nothing else matters.

**[Laughter]**

Murray: In campaigns, nothing does matter except for television, so...

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MM:sec

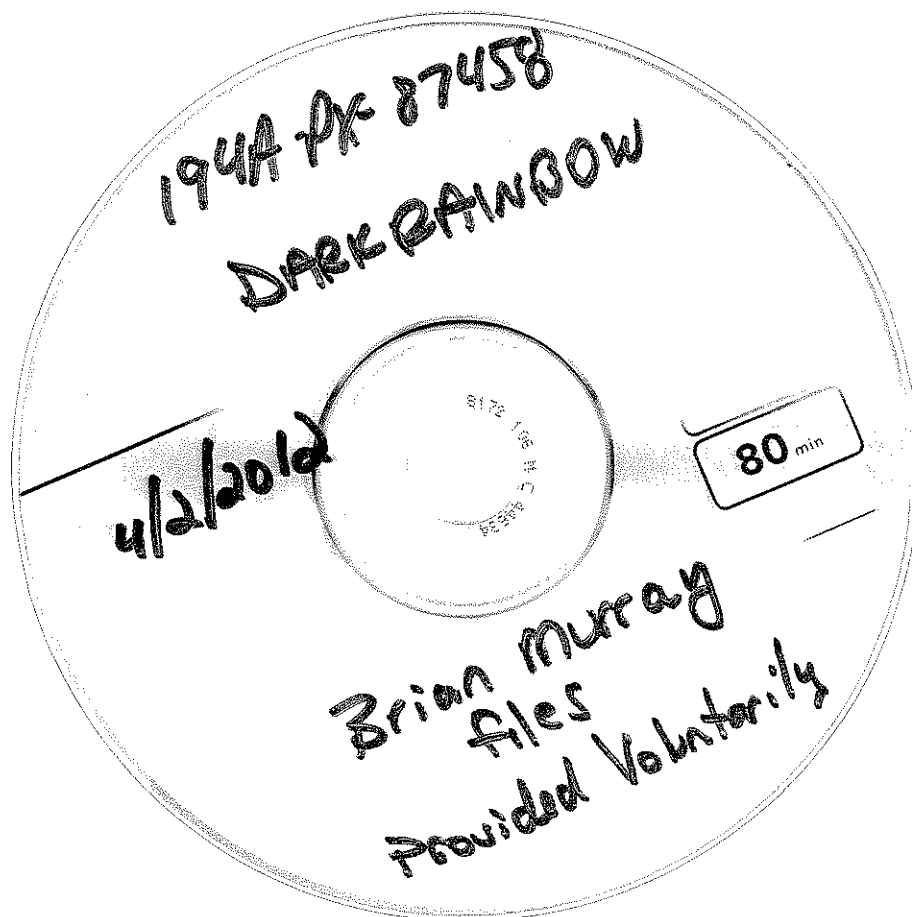
UNCLASSIFIED

Mason: Right.

Grehoski: Okay. Alright, well, we'll go off tape.

Mason: It's approximately three forty-seven. It's Merv Mason we're gonna go of tape.

[End of Recording]



## Grehoski, Brian

---

**From:** Grehoski, Brian  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2012 10:00 AM  
**To:** 'Brian Murray'  
**Subject:** RE: Follow Up

Thank you again Brian for the info.  
Regards,

Brian

---

**From:** Brian Murray [<mailto:brian@summitgroupnet.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2012 9:55 AM  
**To:** Grehoski, Brian  
**Subject:** RE: Follow Up

I think we were all pushing for Courtney to get the job, and I would suspect Michael had good input about that as well. I can say for my part that I called Amy Rezzonico about it and urged her to hire Courtney because I thought Amy would be a good person for Courtney to learn the business from. I also believe I spoke to Doug Nick as well, but I am not sure I did.

I would not envision asking Chuck or involving him in media, especially since he was on Megan's earning team. Chuck doesn't do messaging or strategy, his main work is on door to door and field activities. I can't say 100% that I didn't, but would think it highly unlikely. I can say that the original spot was written by me, and that minor edits were made trying to incorporate some of Winn's suggestions.

I have no idea if Chuck and Michael spoke about the ads, but I doubt it. I would also suggest Michael and Chuck are sophisticated enough to know that kind of activity is forbidden, and that they both have high ethical standards and would not discuss it. I truly don't recall discussing with Michael Winn's behavior, the only thing that stands out was after the campaign was over and she was essentially accusing me of stealing the money, I know that I complained to Michael about her and her accusations at that time. I ended up providing the run sheets to her and then just stopped talking to her.

---

**From:** Grehoski, Brian [<mailto:Brian.Grehoski@ic.fbi.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2012 9:18 AM  
**To:** Brian Murray  
**Subject:** RE: Follow Up

Thank you Brian, I appreciate the extra consideration. Is Michael's friendship with Chuck what lead to Courtney Coolidge being hired by the AGO?

Also, did you have conversations with Chuck about the BLA ads?

It stands to reason that given Michael's history with LSG and his friendships with LSG personnel that he would have spoken about the ads in some fashion. Merv and I thought about this also and we could both envision you talking with Michael and bantering about Winn's behavior. Thoughts?

Brian

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**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2012 9:10 AM  
**To:** Grehoski, Brian  
**Subject:** Follow Up

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After discussing our conversation last night with my wife, two points came up that I thought I would share with you.

First on the issue of KW's coordination. I think the main point would be that she wanted to change the TV spot after it was airing for just a couple of days. I think I said she did this because I thought she was not smart. After discussing it last night with my wife it kind of dawned on me that if she was truly coordinating strategy with anybody that has a clue about political strategy that they would not recommend this approach and would, in my opinion, and strenuously object to that strategy, just as I had.

Second, on the issue of Michael calling our office. Michael's best friend is Chuck Coolidge who also works at Lincoln and it is just as likely that he called Chuck or frankly other staff as well. I am not saying we didn't talk I just thought it was important to point out that the 480-303- extension means could have been speaking to other people.

In any event I thought I would pass along both of these points to you.

B

**Brian Murray**

Partner  
The Summit Consulting Group  
3230 E. Broadway Road  
Suite C-260  
Phoenix, AZ 85040  
602-235-9320 Office  
602-549-4580 Cell

Follow me on Twitter: [BrianMurrayAZ](#)

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